

SKETCHES OF SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL LEADERS OF THE
CANADIAN RE'OLT IN LOWER CANADA.

LOUIS JOSEPH PAPINEAU is the son of Joseph Papineau, a notary in Montreal, who is still living, although ninety years of age. He has ever been denominated by the Canadians as "Father of the Patriots," but not a patriot either in the spirit or sense in which it is now applied to his son. This aged individual has never been the enemy of Great Britain, neither was he opposed to the Government at a period when it was generally believed by the Canadians to be the intention of England to make innovations on the institutions and privileges guaranteed to them at the conquest of the country. Yet, naturally jealous and fearful of such consequences, he was induced to take the chair at a large public meeting held on the Champ de Mars, against the then projected union of the Upper and Lower Provinces, at which a petition was voted to the Sovereign, and afterwards signed by eighty thousand Canadians, expatiating on the blessings they enjoyed under the Constitution as it then stood, and still stands, and praying that it might remain unaltered.

Such was the spirit of the aged parent of the rebel Papineau. We have been induced cursorily to mention him, merely to show that the revolutionary opinions of the son were not inculcated from early youth, but merely the out-breakings of a discontented mind, embittered by events and disasters of his own seeking. On the contrary, we have reason to believe that the aged Papineau earnestly endeavoured to check the rebellious principles exhibited by the son in all his actions for several years past, being fully convinced that he was guided and governed in all his extravagant and rebellious designs far more from vanity and ambition than from any conviction that his patriotism, so called, could lead to the welfare of his country, or that he had the means or ability of carrying his measures into effect.

Had his cause in any one principle been a just one; had there been one shadow of excuse that might have been urged in extenuation for the blood that he has been principally the cause of spilling by his patriotic rebely; had, we say, his country taken up arms at his suggestion, and in a right cause, Papineau never could have sustained the character of a leader; he never could have been their chief, for it is well known he never through life possessed one generous feeling of moral or physical courage; and the absurdity of the supposition is great that the Americans would risk a war with Great Britain to assist the Canadians in gaining their independence, for the purpose of installing Papineau chief of the Canadian nation as dictator; or that Great Britain would quietly submit to have the province wrested from her, to the destruction of the lives and properties of those emigrants who had left the home that was dear to them to establish themselves in Canada, to enjoy, as they naturally expected, the protection of the British Government; or that if he, Papineau, could succeed in separating the Canadian nation from Great Britain, that the Americans would allow them to remain so near to them without immediately attaching them to the Great Republican Family, which would be a sad exchange for the tyranny of England—so termed by General Papineau.

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The individual we have here alluded to is about forty-nine years of age, and of mild and courteous manners, which have no similarity with his opinions or appearance. In height he is about five feet eight, and inclining to the *embonpoint*. His features, which are prominent, have something of the Jewish cast, which is much added to by his dark hair and eyebrows, which are thick and arched, giving much fire to the eye. He is undoubtedly a man of much information, and in society his conversational powers are most fascinating. It cannot but be deplored that an individual so gifted should be led by motives of ambition to seek his own ruin, instead of employing his talents for the benefit of his fellow men.

The Commander-in-Chief of Louis Papineau's rebel army is named BROWN, who appears, if we may judge of his speedy abandonment of the forces under his command, to have as much mistaken his calling as the cause which has joined him with the great Canadian chief. This individual, denominated General Brown, is an American, but very unlike the American portion of the Montreal community, who, it is but justice to say, have always been as true to the cause of Great Britain as the most loyal of her subjects, which, by-the-by, is another argument to the prejudice of M. Papineau.

General Brown is a miserable squalid-looking person, of short stature and contemptible appearance; his countenance being stamped with an expression of discontent, meanness, and indecision of character in mind—in fact, by his own countrymen he would be termed a "crooked cretur." Not long before the rebellion he became a bankrupt iron-monger, and thus having nothing to lose, but everything to gain, he placed himself at the head of the factious army. In this capacity, however, he proved himself unworthy the confidence of the poor deluded victims whom he and his leader Papineau had seduced into their service.

A character not less conspicuous was Doctor WOLFRED NELSON. His person was handsome and manly; in height he was about six feet; and his disposition was far more determined, courageous, and active, than any of his brother-traitors; and had he been well supported, he would have proved a dangerous and powerful enemy. This individual was the son of an Englishman of high respectability, who formerly kept a school at Sorel. He married early a Canadienne, and settling at St. Charles, the hot-bed of democracy in that section of the country, and being possessed of talent, intelligence, and energy, he was sought out, flattered, and caressed, until, at length falling into the snare, he became the tool of the factious party—until, hurried on step by step, he fell a victim to ultra-liberal opinions—and having had leisure to brood over his follies and disappointed ambition as an inmate of the prison at Montreal, died within its walls, a sacrifice to the cowardice and ill-advice of his flatterers, and his own weakness.

Doctor O'CALLAGHAN may rank next amongst the list of factious heroes. This gentleman is the *ci-devant* editor of Louis Papineau's gazette, mis-termed "The Irish Vindicator," and the coadjutor of the traitor chief in everything that was vile and miserable. He was first known in Canada as the apothecary at the Montreal Hospital, which

place he left for Quebec—being at that period an Ultra-Tory in every sense of the word. Having persecuted the then Governor, Lord Aylmer, with constant applications for lucrative employment, without success, he forsook his old calling—dissatisfied and inconsistent, he offered himself as an agent for Canadian agitation, and ultimately succeeded in being appointed, by M. Papineau, editor of "The Irish Vindicator," in which situation he catered fully for the seditious tastes of his employer. His advance was afterwards as rapid as his fall. Rewarded for his democratic scribbling by a seat in Parliament, he there made himself conspicuous by taking a part prominently and diametrically opposite to that with which he had hitherto sided. He then proceeded with his patron to the action of St. Charles—from whence he accompanied him to his secret hiding-place in the United States—and neither the one nor the other have since been heard of.

Doctor COATES, of L'Acadie, another prominent rebel, the chief of that district, is a man of about thirty-five years of age, and a member of the Provincial Parliament. He is, however, a man of little ability, and still less personal courage, strength of mind, or fitness to head any party whatever—but is a fit associate for those with whom he has connected himself.

Another far more talented individual is M. SHORE MILNE BOUCHETTE. He is the son of the Surveyor-General, and a young man of not more than twenty-five years of age, of courteous and distinguished manners and address. If it may be termed distinguishing himself in such a cause, he did so; for he fought bravely at Missisquoi Bay, and was taken, after being severely wounded—and his unhappy fate may be terminated before his career had well begun. He is now in the prison of Montreal; and it is to be regretted that one so promising should have been betrayed into his present difficulties under promises of great preferment and rewards.

We must now refer to the rebellion on the north side of the St. Lawrence, the first post of which was at St. Eustache. This part of the country was encouraged and headed by Mr. SCOTT, the merchant, or rather shopkeeper, of the village above mentioned. This individual is the son of a baker residing in Montreal; and having allied himself for some time past with the Papineau faction, he was elected by them (in conjunction with Gerouard, Chief at Grand Brulé) for the county of the Lake of the Two Mountains. He is a dark and ill-favoured person of about three-and-thirty years of age, and of few capacities.

GEROUARD is well known from his height, which is above six feet. He is also of dark complexion, with jet-black hair and eyes. This leader is by profession a notary, and has always been known as a thorough Revolutionist at heart. Since his discomfiture at Grand Brulé he has been taken by Mr. Simpson, the Collector of Customs at Coteau du Lac—who is step-father to Mr. Roebuck, although entirely differing from him in political opinions.

M. DUMOUCHEL, of St. Benoit, or Grand Brulé, is also one of the principal promoters of the rebellion, which is the more to be regretted

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as he can boast of more than sixty years of age, many of which he has passed in the bosom of his family, and surrounded by the most peaceful peasantry in the world. He has also been rich in fortune and prosperity, both of which have hitherto been deserved as amassed by his own labours and honest exertions. Alas! that his overwrought Republican opinions should, at the close of a long life, have led him to commit those offences against the laws of his country, which must terminate in his own ruin, and the sacrifice of his valuable property.

GIROD, frequently confounded with and mistaken for Girouard, was a Swiss. He went to Canada about six years ago as an adventurer, thrust himself upon the notice of the Government as having imported into the province a new system of agriculture peculiarly adapted to the Canadian farmer, and requesting assistance to carry his plan into effect; but not meeting with the encouragement he anticipated, he conceived he might turn his talents to more advantage by joining the rebels; and being unsuccessful with them at Grand Brulé, he retreated to Point au Tremble, where he put an end to his republican schemes and adventures by blowing out his brains.

The British settlers at this part of the Montreal district had, from the commencement of the revolt, been so persecuted and annoyed by the Canadians, nay, even driven from their homes, and that during the most inclement season of the year, that it is not surprising, when they found themselves in a position to retaliate, they should have inflicted on the inhabitants of "St. Eustache" and "Grand Brulé" that severe degree of retributive vengeance which they experienced from the hands of the loyalists, but which the Queen's troops (to whom have been falsely attributed those acts of severity) endeavoured, with their wonted forbearance, to prevent. True it is that the small force under the orders of Colonel Wetherall, at the battle of St. Charles on the Chambly River, were directed by that gallant officer to follow up their successes by those decisive and rigorous measures which dictated the necessity of destroying the property of the principal traitors in that quarter; but when we consider the very critical situation of that brave and little band, surrounded, as they then were, by an extensive disaffected population marching upon them from all sides, no alternative remained but to employ such measures as should frighten the traitors from their rebellious purpose, which, to persons unacquainted with the true state of that part of the country, may have appeared harsh and uncalled for, yet, upon dispassionate reflection, must be deemed both merciful and salutary, resulting, as they did, in staying the progress of the rebellion, and thereby preventing that effusion of human blood which must unavoidably have ensued had the warfare been protracted, and the deluded habitants* not have retired to their homes as they did, and that very rapidly, on learning the fate of their misguided compatriots; besides which, it has been positively ascertained, that had the expedition under Colonel Wetherall failed, the revolution would then have been complete, as the entire Canadian people, flushed with the check the troops under Colonel Gore experienced from the Patriot force at St. Denis, were only waiting a similar result at St. Charles to rise *en masse*.

* Term used on all occasions for inhabitants or country people.

There are now about 270 prisoners in the Montreal prison under a charge of high treason, among whom are some persons of respectable standing in society, but who have long been among the most active partisans of the great rebel Papineau, and are now implicated as concerned in the councils of that plot which was to destroy the connexion now subsisting between Canada and Great Britain. The most influential person of this party is Mons. Louis Michel Viger, commonly called "Beau Viger," from possessing a very handsome and prepossessing person and mien. He is about fifty years of age, a lawyer by profession, a member of the Provincial Parliament, and brother of the Hon. Dennis B. Viger, well known at the Colonial Office as a Canadian Ambassador, and long to be remembered by those Ministers whom he has not failed to fatigue with his favourite theme of Canadian grievances. The said Mons. Louis Michel Viger was president of a recently established institution in Montreal styled "*La Banque du Peuple*," whose notes were peculiarly stamped on blue paper, and inscribed in the French language, for the purpose, as it was stated, of causing a ready circulation of money among the habitants, who, prior to the formation of this institution, refused paper-money of any description; but subsequent events have caused it to be suspected that the projectors of this bank had a deeper scheme in view, as it is now supposed to have been originated for the purpose of affording facilities to the rebel army; and M. Louis Viger stands now committed, charged with having made large advances, and otherwise assisted the rebel cause. There is also in company with him in the same prison M. Come Cherrier, a lawyer of eminence, and member also of the Provincial Parliament, a young man of promising abilities, but who, unfortunately for himself, has employed them in the cause of sedition and rebellion, for which he is now under confinement: it is, however, believed, that he has been betrayed into this error by the natural bias of attachment to his uncle Papineau. But among the extensive group of accused rebels, there is one, who was arrested at Quebec at the commencement of the revolution, more specious, artful, and dangerous than any of them. This person, who has contrived to get admitted to bail, is Mons. Arthur Norbert Morin, the last missionary of the Canadian faction to the British Government, whose evidence before a committee of the House of Commons on Canadian affairs has recently appeared in some of the leading public journals of the metropolis, and who, prior to his mission, had the daring audacity to appear before the Governor of Canada, with the other members of the House of Assembly, decorated with a tri-colour riband, which was a clear indication of the revolutionary principles he then entertained, and of his hostile feelings towards Great Britain. The period must, however, shortly arrive when these parties will all be heard in defence of the crimes for which they stand accused, when they will have awarded to them that justice which they severally merit.

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